CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody competitively inhibits binding of TNF to monoclonal antibody cA2.

2. A method of treating hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody binds to at least one epitope included in amino acids between 87-108 or both 59-80 and 87-108 of SEQ ID NO.:1 of hTNF.

3. A method of treating hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of chimeric anti-TNF antibody cA2.

4. A method for treating hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human at least one monoclonal antibody cA2, or a TNF binding fragment thereof.

5. A method of treating hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody comprises an IgG1 constant region and competitively inhibits binding of TNF to monoclonal antibody cA2.

6. A method of treating hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody comprises an IgG1 constant region and binds to at least one epitope included in amino acids between 87-108 or both 59-80 and 87-108 of SEQ ID NO.:1 of hTNF.

7. A method of treating hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody comprises a non-human variable region comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:3 and SEQ ID NO.:5.

8. A method of treating hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody comprises an IgG1 human constant region and a non-human variable region comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:3 and SEQ ID NO.:5.

9. The method of Claim 7 wherein the non-human variable region comprises a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:2 and SEQ ID NO.:4.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein the non-human variable region comprises a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:2 and SEQ ID NO.: 4.

11. A method of treating inflammation associated with hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody has epitopic specificity identical to monoclonal antibody cA2.

12. A method of treating inflammation associated with hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody competitively inhibits binding of TNF to monoclonal antibody cA2.

13. A method of treating inflammation associated with hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody binds to at least one epitope included in amino acids between 87-108 or both 59-80 and 87-108 of SEQ ID NO.:1 of hTNF.

14. A method of treating inflammation associated with hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of chimeric anti-TNF antibody cA2.

15. A method of treating inflammation associated with hepatitis pathologies involving TNF in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNF-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNF chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNF chimeric antibody has epitopic specificity identical to monoclonal antibody cA2.